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USIB-D-41.14/291
(COMOR-D-13/59)
5 April 1966
Limited Distribution

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT : Special Mapping and Charting Missions to be Flown
in May and August

REFERENCE : USIB-D-41.14/229 (COMOR-D-13/43)
19 March 1965, Limited Distribution

1. The attached memorandum on the subject from the Chairman, Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance (COMOR), reporting on COMOR's review and recommendations to the National Reconnaissance Office pursuant to the Board-approved requirements statement in paragraph 11. of the Enclosure to the reference, is circulated herewith for the information of the United States Intelligence Board (USIB).

2. It is not planned to schedule the Attachment on the agenda of a USIB meeting unless so requested by a Board Member not later than close of business Tuesday, 12 April. In the absence of such a request, the Attachment will be recorded as having been noted by the Board as 25X1A of that date.

Executive Secretary

Attachment

NRO review(s) completed.

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MEMORANDUM FOR: United States Intelligence Board

SUBJECT: Special Mapping and Charting Missions
to be Flown in May and August

REFERENCE: USIB-D-41.14/229; COMOR-D-13/43
19 March 1965

1. COMOR has conducted a review of mapping and charting requirements and, as a result, has recommended to the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) that special mapping and charting missions be flown in May and August with mapping and charting requirements as the primary but not exclusive objective. Attached is a map showing the status of world-wide mapping and charting coverage and priorities. Coverage included the take from Mission 1029J but not 1030J. In reaching its decision to recommend special mapping and charting missions, COMOR notes that on 19 March 1965 (ref a) the Board approved the use of such missions to accelerate coverage of mapping and charting requirements. Whereas the aim was to cover 12 million square miles, outside the Sino-Soviet bloc in 1965, actual coverage amounted to only 8 million square miles.

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Attachment 3

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2. Based on information supplied to COMOR during the course of briefings by the Assistant Director for Mapping, Charting, and Geodesy/DIA, Army Map Service, and NRO, COMOR has proposed to NRO that in addition to the special missions, some previously agreed rules of thumb be revised. In the future, the film allocated to mapping and charting on regular KH-4 missions will be revised to about 20 per cent. The principal reason for this is recognition of the fact that although the turn-around mode and early launch of special mapping and charting missions will permit coverage of many areas under optimum light and weather conditions, the chances of coverage of the many priority one targets in the equatorial belt are extremely poor. Haze and clouds cover these areas such a large percentage of the time that the best chance of getting photography under the desired 90 per cent cloud-free conditions will depend on multiple opportunities. The allocation of 20 per cent of the film will give NRO maximum flexibility in taking advantage of such weather breaks as may occur. To balance this and to insure adequate KH-4 coverage in the month of May, the first special mapping and charting mission will allocate 40-50 per cent of its film to intelligence targets.

3. COMOR notes that the August mapping and charting mission is scheduled to include the pan reseau. The pan reseau is being tested for

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the first time in June. The test will be on a regular KH-4 mission with a greatly increased allocation of film to mapping and charting targets and testing of the pan reseau.

4. This memorandum is forwarded to the Board for information and for noting.

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Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

Attachment:
Map

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